

## **PSC ESTABLISHES HEARING SCHEDULE IN 314, 636 AND 816 AREA CODE ISSUES**

Jefferson City (March 2, 2000)---The Missouri Public Service Commission will hold hearings in **mid-June** in a case examining 314, 636 and 816 area code issues in Missouri.

North American Numbering Plan Administrator NeuStar, Inc. (NANPA) has filed a petition with the Missouri Public Service Commission requesting the Commission approve “overlay” plans to alleviate an apparent exhaustion of available NXX codes (telephone prefixes) in the **314** area code in eastern Missouri (the St. Louis metropolitan area) and the **816** area code in western Missouri (including the Kansas City and St. Joseph areas). The “overlay” plan proposed would also apply to the **636** area code in eastern Missouri.

NANPA suggests an “overlay” be introduced in the 816, 314 and 636 area codes as a means of alleviating the exhaustion of available NXX codes. When NXX codes become unavailable, the new area code is introduced. The introduction of a new area code will require ten digit dialing for local calling (the area code plus the seven digit telephone number).

**Hearings**, to be held in the Commission’s hearing room which is located on the fifth floor of the Truman State Office Building in Jefferson City, are scheduled to begin on **June 19, 2000**. These hearings will continue through **June 22, 2000**, if necessary. Anyone wishing to attend these hearings who has special needs as addressed by the Americans With Disabilities Act, should contact the Missouri Public Service Commission at least 10 days prior to the hearings at one of the following numbers: Consumer Services Hotline--1-800-392-4211, or TDD Hotline--1-800-829-7541.

**Local public hearings** will be held in the St. Louis and Kansas City areas in the 314/636 and 816 area codes. The Commission intends to schedule local public hearings during the period of **April 24, 2000 to May 10, 2000**. A separate order will be issued by the Commission when dates and times are finalized. **The purpose of local public hearings is to obtain input from the public regarding the case.**

A significant reason for the apparent exhaust is the current industry-wide practice of issuing numbers in blocks of 10,000. Other factors include an increasing demand for faxes, second lines, cellular phones, pagers, as well as Personal Communication Services (PCS) and local telephone competition. The Commission has asked the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for authority

to pursue a variety of number conservation measures in Missouri.

The Commission stated in its order developing the hearing schedule: “Adoption of number conservation measures could significantly affect the need for, and the type of, area code relief considered in this proceeding as well as the effectiveness of any action that might be ordered. The Commission will consider number conservation measures as an alternative for or as a supplement to any NPA relief proposal.”

The Commission has directed parties in this case to address, through evidence and argument, the impact of number conservation measures on the need for area code relief, how number conservation measures may affect the types of area code relief considered, and the authority of the Commission to order number conservation measures in lieu of, or in conjunction with, area code relief. Each party to the case is to explain and support its position regarding number conservation measures.

---0---